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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 24, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21----- Still in top place are Newtown apples from Santa Cruz county as the Best Buy in fruits.

This week's Good Buy line-up in the fruit department includes Imperial Valley grapefruit, tangerines, Winter Nelis pears, and lemons (lower).

Helping to make it officially spring are strawberries coming in from southern California. They're expensive, of course.

Cuban pineapples, bananas from Central America and Mexico, and avocados are luxury items, too.

Heading the list as Best Buys among the vegetables are cauliflower and yellow dry onions.

Asparagus has dropped in price sufficiently to head the list of Good Buys this week, followed by cabbage, carrots, lower-priced lettuce, spinach, and peas.

Artichokes are down in price enough to be a Fair Buy, along with hothouse rhubarb from Washington.

Meat --

Although demand has been only slow to fair for meat in the San Francisco wholesale market, prices have tended to hold their own and to go up in some cases, because there has been a dearth of over-all supplies -- especially steer and cow beef, veal and calf carcasses, and lightweight lamb. All cow beef has advanced $1.00 to $2.00 per hundredweight, while Good and Commercial grades of steer beef have gone up $1.00 per hundredweight. Ewe mutton advanced $2.00 per hundredweight. Pork loins in liberal supply have dropped $2.00 per hundredweight. Refined lard is selling 50 cents per hundredweight above a week ago.

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Butter

While western butter production continues on an upward trend, demand in the San Francisco wholesale market remains rather slow. As a result, supplies have been ample to burdensome. Top grades are unchanged in price from a week ago, with Grades AA&AA(1st Quality) quoted to retailers at 65-1/2 to 66 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. But Grade B(2nd Quality) has dropped 2-1/2 cents from a week ago to a quotation to retailers of 62-1/2 to 63-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

Eggs

Plentiful supplies of eggs have held unchanged in price, although demand has not been quite as active. Surplus eggs are moving into storage at a substantial rate. Quotations to retailers are: Grade "A" Large, 42 to 43 cents per dozen in cartons; Grade "A" Mediums, 40 to 41 cents per dozen; and Grade "A" Smalls, 32 to 34 cents per dozen.

Poultry

For the most part, prices on dressed poultry have held unchanged from a week ago under a generally moderate demand. Supplies of young chickens are adequate for their good demand at unchanged prices, while Leghorn hens in ample supply are selling 2 to 3 cents per pound below a week ago. All other classes are unchanged.

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